

# Alaska Trauma Registry Calendar March 2000

State of Alaska  
Department of Health and Social Services  
Division of Public Health  
Community Health and Emergency Medical Services

Jeanne Molitor, who is a Trauma Registrar at Providence Alaska Medical Center, has been helping out with Trauma Registry training, data collection, and validation studies. We hope to use her more in the future to assist with these tasks, and she will be available to travel to hospitals who need help with data collection. We are looking forward to the completion of 1999 data very soon.

Diane Sallee, the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) program coordinator, resigned and has moved to Anchorage with her husband who took a new job. TBI data still will be collected and we are fairly certain that there will be an additional year of funding for this project from CDC.

As a result of analysis of the TBI data that the CDC has received from participating states, data elements critical for good TBI surveillance have been selected. Consequently, there are two new TBI data elements that we intend to incorporate into routine trauma registry data collection in the future. This will apply to head injured patients only. They are "level of consciousness" (if there is no Glasgow Coma Scale available) and Glasgow Outcome Scale. A training packet will be mailed out to registrars along with a modified data collection worksheet, in the near future.

The CDC has been very complimentary of the completeness and quality of data from Alaska. Head injuries remain a significant problem here, especially with the abundant use of all-terrain vehicles and snow machines in the state. The staff at Community Health and EMS (CHEMS) are interested in using the TBI data for education, implementing injury prevention programs, and supporting policies related to helmet use. This is the direction that we plan to take in the future with our TBI program and your data is critical.

***THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUING GOOD WORK!***